Recd July 18th

Ansd Aug. 24th.

wrote again Apr. 21. 1841.

Cheyneville June 17th 1839.

CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dear Sir &c

Though I have not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with you, yet being engaged in similar pursuits with yourself I trust you will pardon my freedom in thus introducing myself to your notice as a brother botanist, whose name you may perhaps have heard from our late much lamented friend the Revd L de Schweinitz.

I am at present located nearly in the centre of Louisiana, & shall probably remain throughout the summer & autumn. Though I have lived in the U. States now for upwards of 20 years, this is the first time that I have been further South than Virginia. A residence however short in the South I have long desired, in order to pursue my botanical researches in this quarter, which indeed affords me inexpressible delight, more particularly as my labours thus far have been eminently successful. This section of the country I should suppose must have been rarely visited by botanists, or so large a number of new, beautiful & conspicuous plants could hardly have escaped notice. Scarcely a day passes in which I have not the good fortune to meet with some species not described in the books. Contrary to my most sanguine expectation I have found, already, some new Genera which I am confident are decidedly unknown, & a number which I suppose to be so — whether I am mistaken or not I shall leave you to decide. Permit me however to assure you that as a botanist of the manufacturing order I am in no way allied to our friend R. which you perhaps begin to suspect I am from my speaking so largely and so confidently of my discoveries.

I will proceed to mention a few of the plants which I have collected. – In searching for the long lost Ixia coelestina – found by Bartram – in Florida, if I mistake not, – I was so fortunate as to find another species of Ixia of which I will send you specimens. It agrees in no respect with Bartram's plant, – is of a purple rather than a blue color, – is branching, and grows sometimes to the height of 3 feet. The spathe generally contains 3 flowers that come out in succession at intervals of two or three days. I have collected some of the bulbous roots which I shall send to Col. Carr, Bartram's garden for cultivation. It will be a most desirable green house plant. One most singular & beautiful new Genus, now in flower, much resembles a Cyperus in habit, & though often appearing to have only a scape, it is not unfrequently found branching, producing numerous splendid flowers which expand nearly all at the same time, with the exception of the central terminal one. The flowers at a distance strikingly resemble a Sabbatia, being of the same beautiful pink color, but larger, more showy and uniformly nine cleft, always containing 9 stamens and one pistil with a cleft stigma, and a coriaceous campanulate calyx pectinate on the margin. This plant I certainly think is unknown to botanists unless it grows also in N. Holland. A few hours ago I brought in another supposed new Genus, which I have now before me. It belongs to Pentand. Dig. The flowers somewhat resemble a Lysimachia but are of the most intensely brilliant blue that I have ever seen.

A weak annual plant growing erect to the height of about two feet, with small yellow flowers I have found uni-

-formly to contain 4 Stamens and 5 pistils, - a four leaved permanent calyx, and corolla of 5 petals. Is not this an anomoly?

A Lake of about 9 miles in length (Lake Crocodile of the maps) I have twice visited and find it abounds in rare and singular plants. Besides several aquatics which I can find no description of, I there met with a beautiful yellow flowered Species of Schrankia, - foliage and habit like S. uncinata, which is very abundant here, but unarmed & much less sensitive. I must however check myself in enumerating & leave you to judge of what I have found when you have the ocular proofs before you. And now my dear Sir if you can tell me by what means I can convey a packet of dried plants to you I will send them with much pleasure. If you have any correspondent or acquaintance in N. Orleans I would have it conveyed thither to be forwarded to you. As you are now publishing your new Flora of N. America I hope these plants may reach you in time to find a place in it. Shall I confess to you that I have had the presumption to think you may perhaps consider my labours worthy of the recompense of having my name associated with some one of the plants which I have discovered here. This would indeed be an honour that would be highly valued by a far less ardent votary of Flora than myself, but which while I write, I feel the indelicacy of hinting at.

A few lines from you directed Cheyneville, Parish des Rapides, La. would much oblige

Your obed^t Servt

Daniel Steinhauer

GRAY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cheneyville La
June 20

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Forwarded

Dr. John Torrey
~~Military Academy~~
~~West Point~~
N. Y.